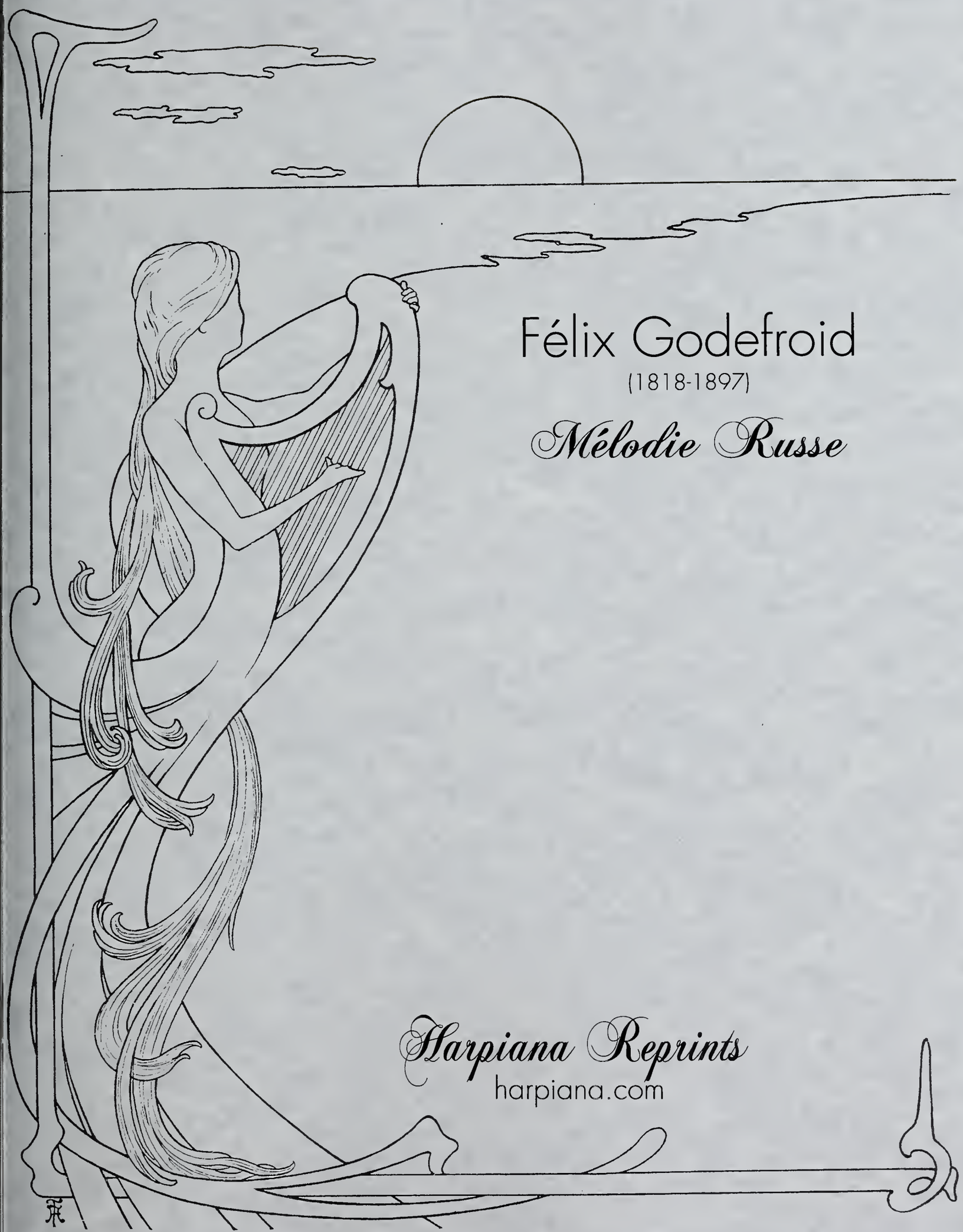


Félix Godefroid

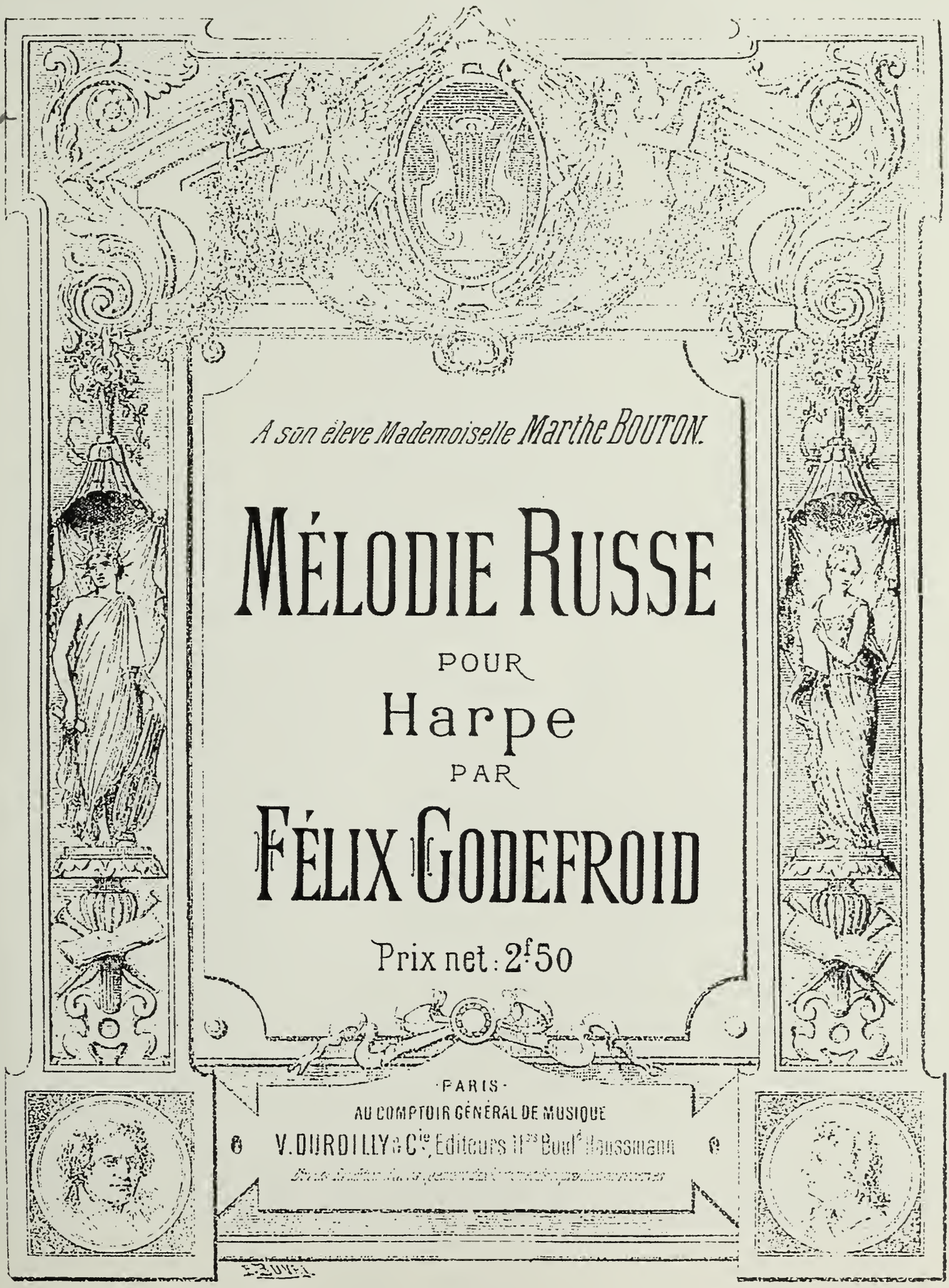
(1818-1897)

Mélodie Russe

Harpiana Reprints
harpiana.com

HAROLD B. LEE LIBRARY
BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY
PROVO, UTAH

M
117
.G62
1145
1890a



A son élève Mademoiselle Marthe BOUTON.

MÉLODIE RUSSE

POUR

Harpe

PAR

FÉLIX GODEFROID

Prix net : 2f 50

PARIS
AU COMPTOIR GÉNÉRAL DE MUSIQUE
6 V. DURDILLY & Cie, Editeurs 11 bis Boul.d Haussmann 6

Image Bnf

Félix Godefroid

A Brief Biography of Félix Godefroid

Dieudonné-Joseph-Guilllaume-Félix Godefroid, best known as Félix, was born on July 24, 1818 in Namur, in the southern region of Belgium. Descended from a family of gifted musicians active throughout the area for generations, Félix naturally followed in their footsteps.

Félix's father, Dieudonné-Wéry, had begun a successful public music school with multi-disciplinary offerings—"Ecole d'Enseignement Mutuel." After bankrupting himself with the management of the new concert hall, he moved to France with his family and started a similar school in Boulogne-sur-Mer, on the Channel. Some of the most renowned artists of the era, including Nicolò Paganini, Charles Auguste de Bériot and Maria Malibran, collaborated with the Godefroid family in concert.

The youngest of 11 children, Félix studied harp and piano, first with his father and then with his eldest brother Jules (1811-1840). He was admitted to the Conservatoire at the age of 14 and earned a Second Prix in 1834. But, given François-Joseph Naderman's (1773-1835) opposition to Erard's double-action pedal harp, he left the Conservatoire to seek advice from Théodore Labarre and Elias Parish Alvars. After various misfortunes, both of his parents passed away in 1836, followed by his brother Jules in 1840—with whom he was deeply bonded. The time had come for Félix to launch his own career.

Godefroid spent much of the 1840s through the 1860s giving solo concerts in Paris, in the French provinces, throughout Western Europe, and all the way to Russia and the Middle East. His playing was described as full of vigor and brilliance but also of delicacy, suave melody, and mysterious harmony. He conquered every stage and concert hall and was hailed the premier harpist of Europe. His talent would "have an infallible influence on the future of the harp." In later years he did attempt to secure his legacy through the pedagogic works *Mes Exercices, Pensées Musicales* and *Etudes Mélodiques.*

As a composer, Godefroid wrote his most dazzling harp pieces for his own use but he also produced numerous works for his students and for the marketplace. For piano, he brought out a series of publications expounding the art of melody as *L'Ecole Chantante du Piano.* Like his brother Jules, he felt compelled to try his hand at opera, first acquiring experience, prudently, with some small-scale salon operas. One traceable example is the sweet *A deux pas du bonheur.* When he completed his opera comique, *La harpe d'or,* he succeeded in having it performed in 1858 at the Théatre-Lyrique, where it received respectable notices. He also penned several choir pieces, some of great dimensions, such as the *Cantate patriotique* of 1869—a commission from his native city of Namur, the *Missa Alleluia,* the *Requiem Mass,* and the opera-oratorio *La Fille de Saül.*

Many of Godefroid's pieces were published in dual versions, either for harp or for piano. The differences in the writing clearly illustrate his perception of their different singing voice. Yet it is obvious that, despite his proficiency on the piano, he always favored the harp, and he harbored the most lofty expectations from those who would "busy themselves" with the instrument.

Godefroid's music falls naturally into the harpists' hands. Melody—whether in the right or left hand—reigns supreme, rising out of shimmery repeated note patterns such as cross fingering, trills, and thumb slides and singing out in harmonics or imitating the dark tones of the cello. Arpeggios prolong the ringing of pivotal chords, quick grace notes render heroic or elfin moods. Delightful filigree climbs over the whole range of the harp, while tremolo and bisbigliando effects over synonym notes whisper and quiver.

Godefroid's subject matters evoke the beauty of nature, the moods of popular tunes, romantic myths and fairy legends, exotic locales and sentimental religiosity. A master enchanter, he blazed a magic trail and, in retracing his steps, the works republished here will reveal, like sleeping beauties, the spell hiding behind their deceptive simplicity.

Dominique Piana and Celia Chan Valerio, May 2009

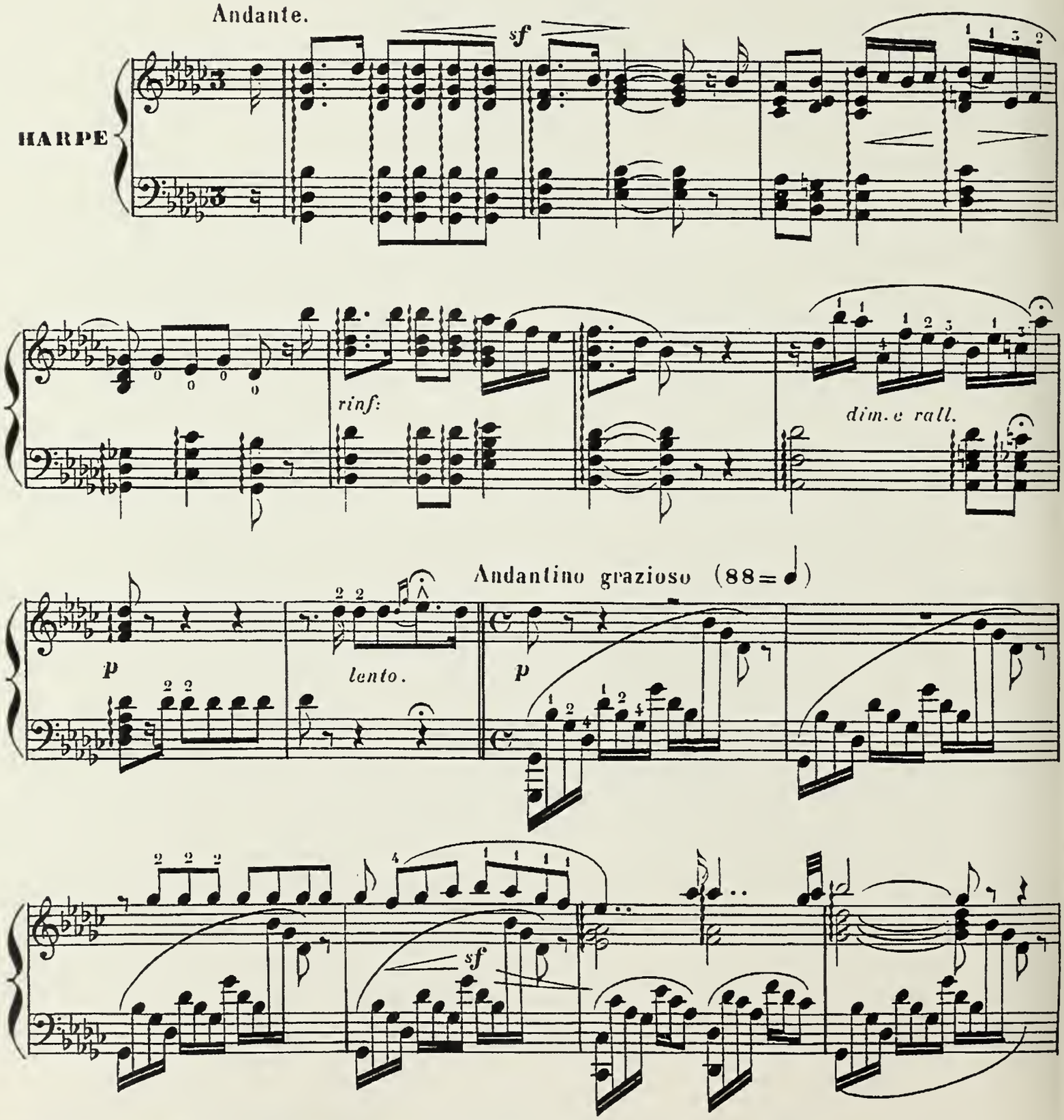
If you wish to read more information about Félix Godefroid and his compositions, a longer three-page article can be requested from Harpiana, and Celia Chan Valerio's dissertation FÉLIX GODEFROID: VIRTUOSO HARPIST AND COMPOSER, An Overview of His Performance Career and Harp Compositions, is available for purchase at www.proquest.com or by e-mail at celiaharp@aol.com

HAROLD B. LEE LIBRARY
BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY
PROVO, UTAH

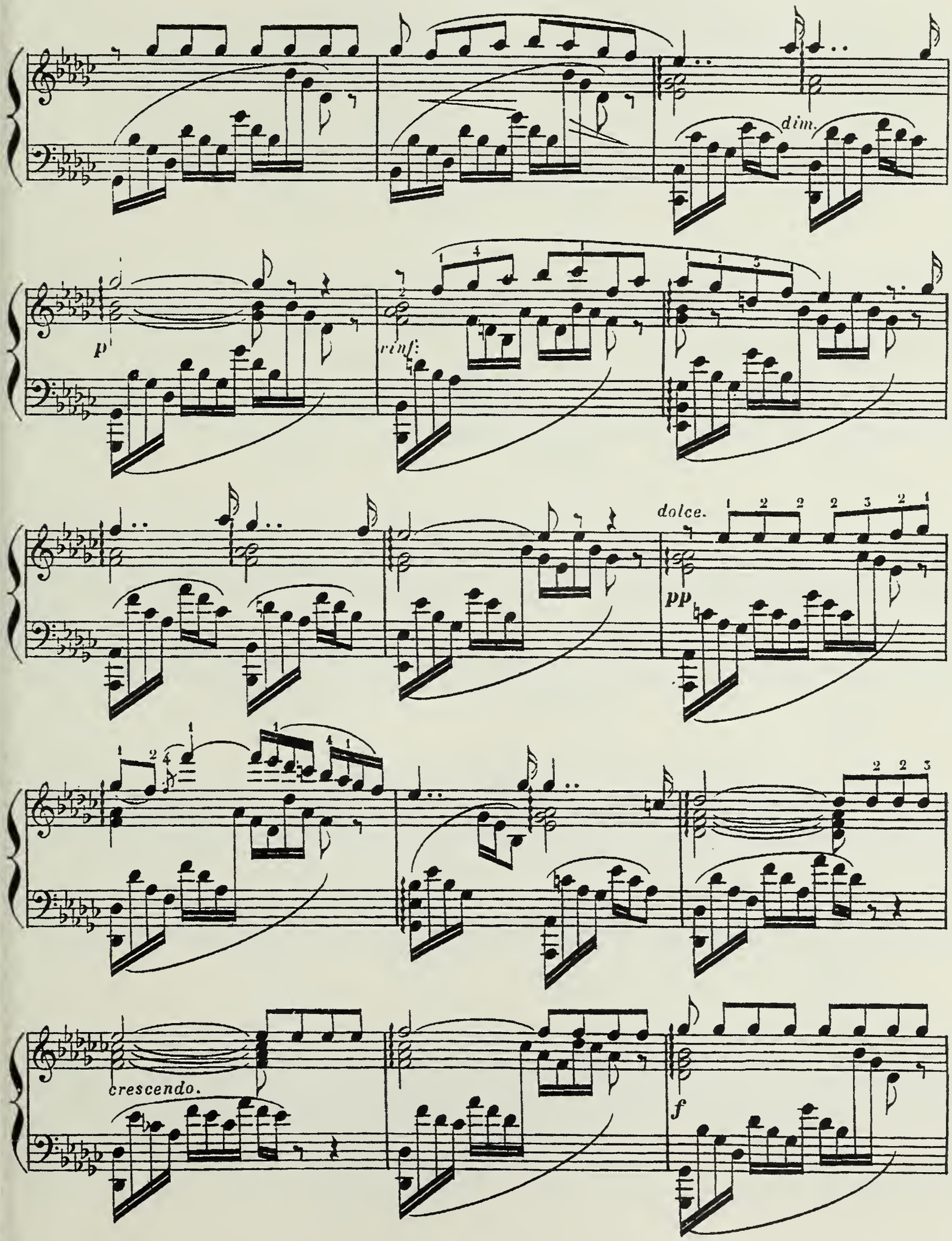
A son élève Mademoiselle MARTHE BOUTON

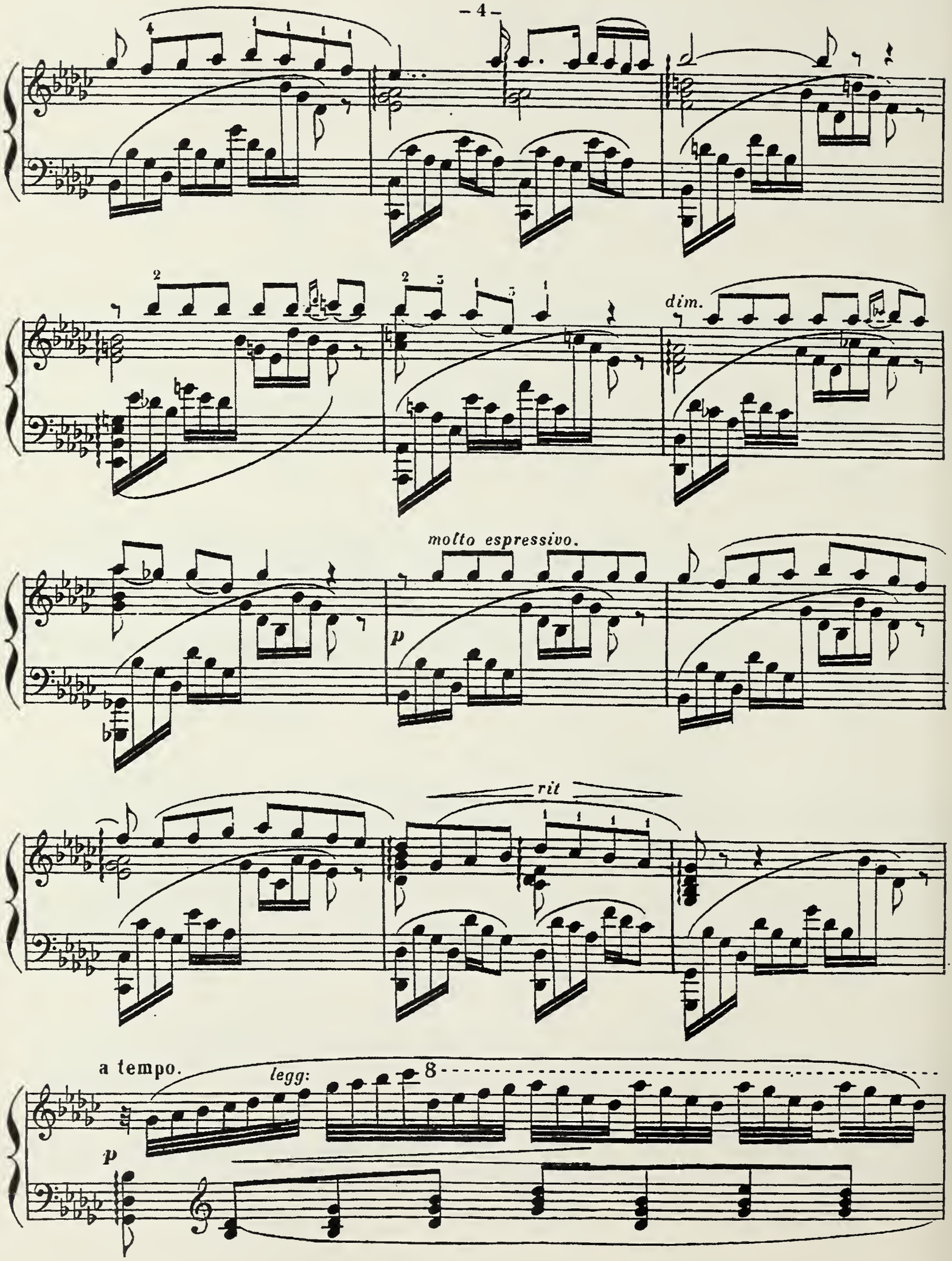
MÉLODIE RUSSE

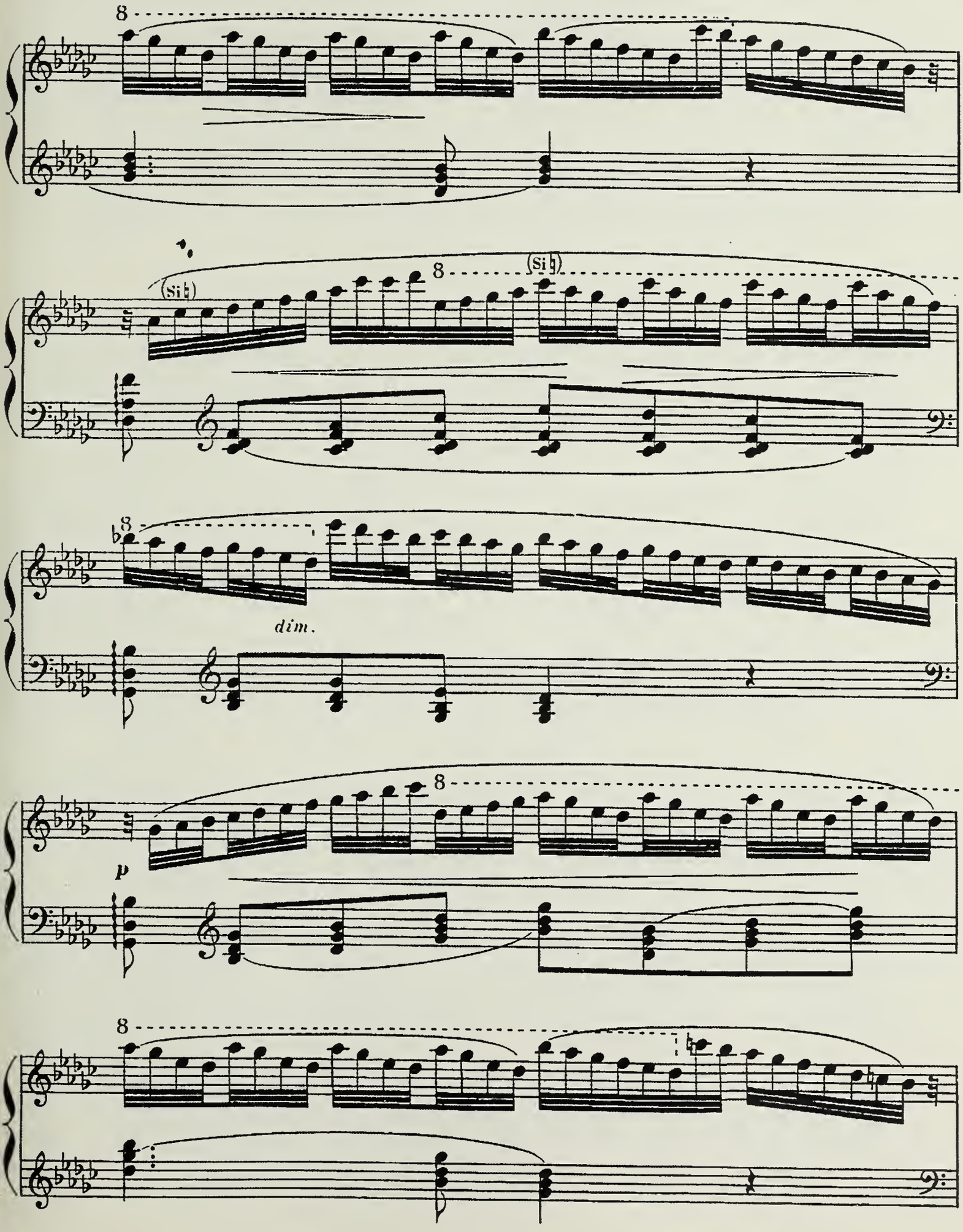
FÉLIX GODEFROID

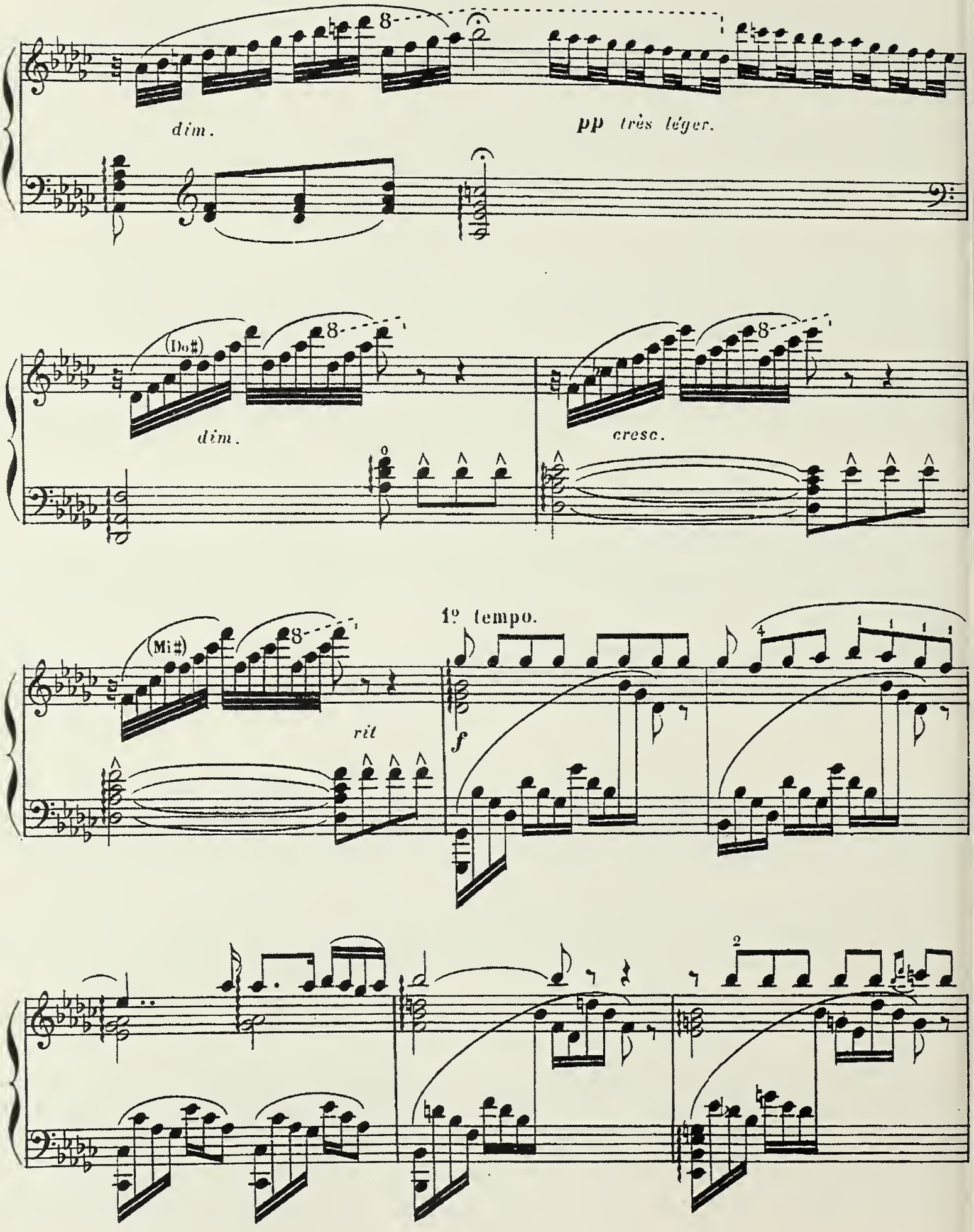


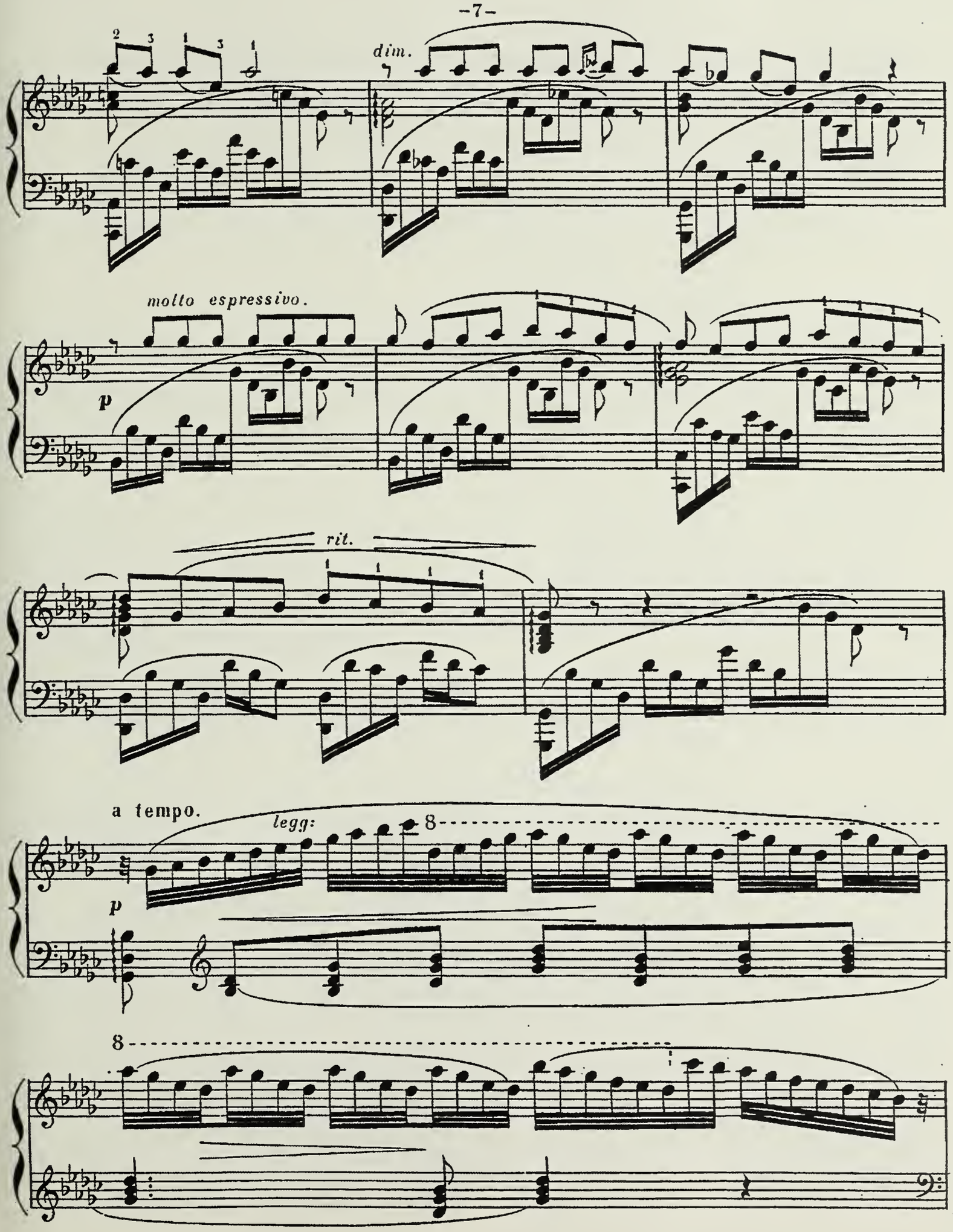
Images BnF/ used by permission from the Bibliothèque nationale de France, 2009.

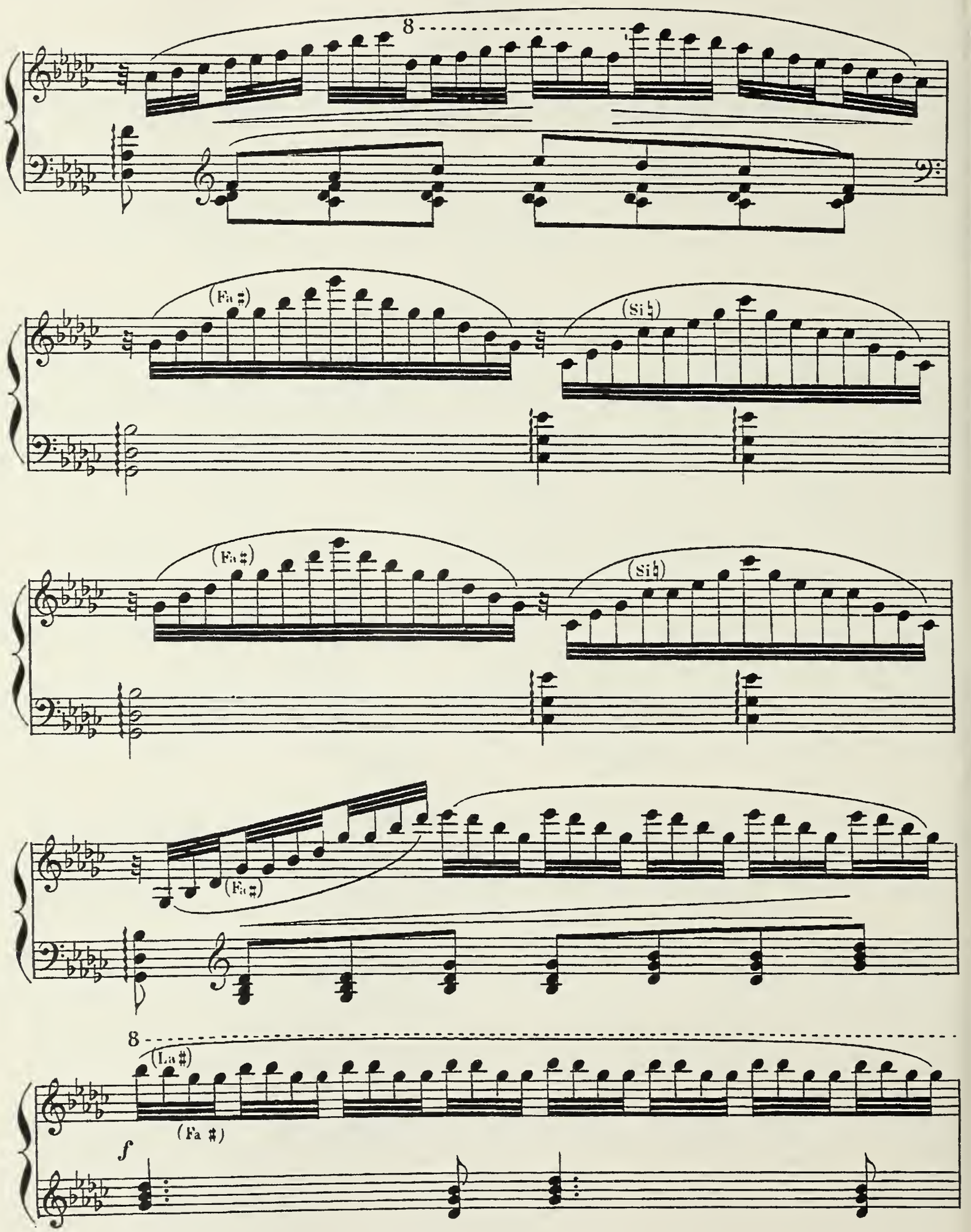

dim.
p
rinf:
dolce.
pp
crescendo.
f

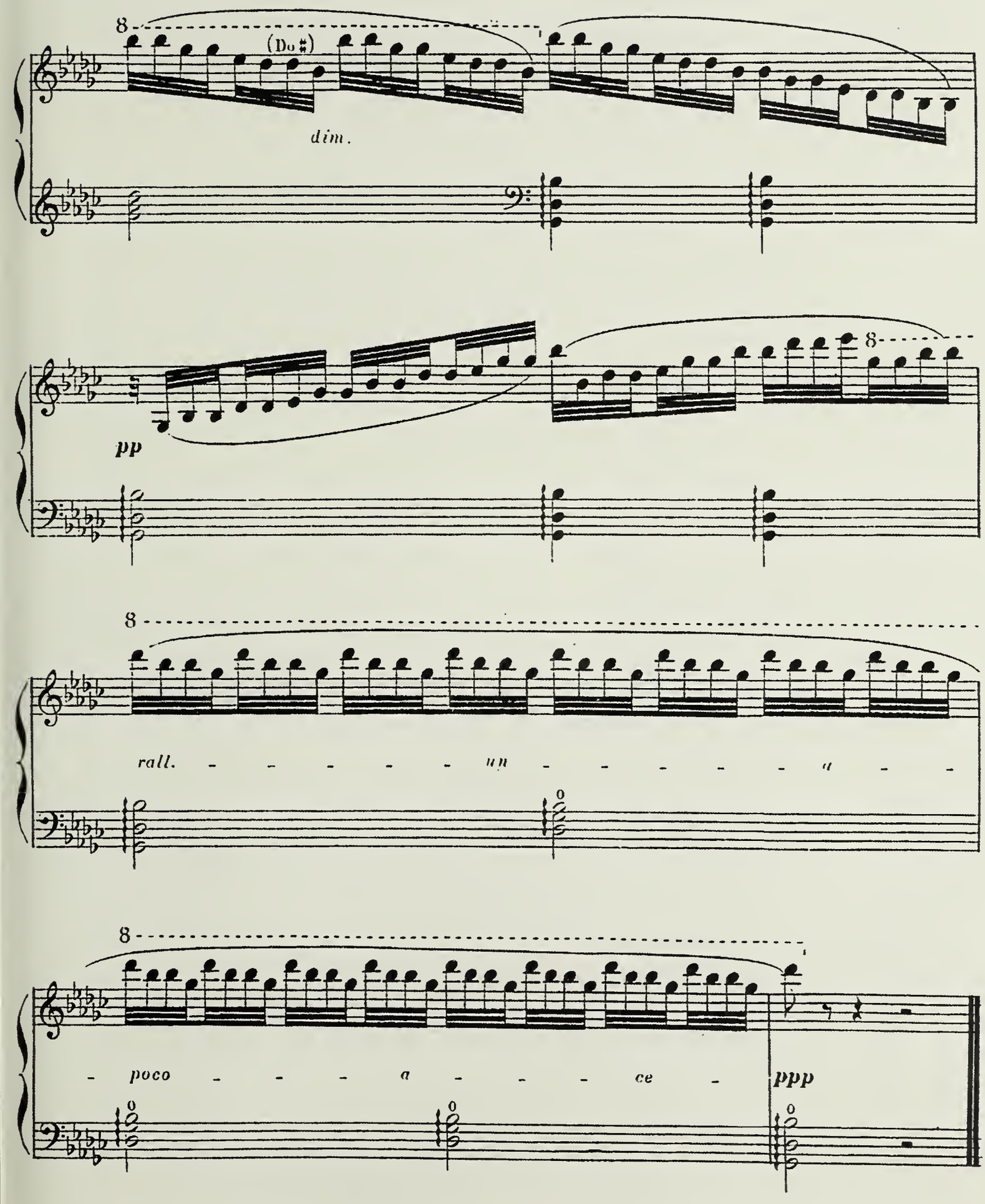

dim.
molto espressivo.
p
rit
a tempo.
legg:
8
p


8
(Si♭)
8
(Si♭)
8
dim.
8
p
8
8


dim.
pp très léger.
(Do♯)
dim.
cresc.
(Mi♯)
rit
1º tempo.
f


dim.
molto espressivo.
p
rit.
a tempo.
legg:
8
p
8


8
(Fa ♯)
(Si ♭)
(Fa ♯)
(Si ♭)
(Fa ♯)
8
(La ♯)
(Fa ♯)
f


8
(Do♯)
dim.
pp
8
8
rall. - - - - - un - - - - - a - -
8
- poco - - - a - - - ce -
ppp

ŒUVRES NOUVELLES
DE
FÉLIX GODEFROID

HARPE

	Prix net.
Mes Exercices (1).	0 »

MORCEAUX DE GENRES

La Ballade de la Fée	2 50
Le Revoir, *Romance sans paroles.*	2 »
Le Brenner, *tyrolienne.*	1 75
Le Rouet de Marguerite	3 »
La Mort d'Orphée.	2 50
Le Sommeil des Dieux	2 50
Stella, *Romance sans paroles*	2 »
Le Coucou	2 »
Chant d'Armide	1 75
Sérénade Aragonaise.	2 »
Mélodie Russe	2 50

PIANO

La Ballade de la Fée.	1 50
Le Brenner.	1 75

A TRAVERS LA PENSÉE

Recueil contenant

Coulez mes larmes	1 50
Je la revois, c'est elle	1 50
Dans la forêt	1 75
Tu ne m'aimes plus	1 75
Doux souvenirs.	1 50
Remplissez ma coupe.	1 50
Quand je vous dis adieu	1 50
La Montagne	1 50
Bonheur perdu!	1 50
La voix aimée!	1 50
Danse fantastique.	1 50
Reine d'amour	1 50
Recueil complet.	5 »

(1) Ces exercices du célèbre virtuose sont une bonne fortune pour les harpistes.

Harpiana Reprints

The Music of Félix Godefroid (1818-1897)

Pensées Musicales, Book I
Prière (Prayer)
Le Roseau (The Reed)
Vieille Chanson normande (Old Norman Song)
Divin Calme (Divine Calm)
La Laura
Hymne à la Paix (Hymn to Peace)
Les Abeilles (The Bees)
Mystérieux Vallon (Secret Vale)

Six Nouvelles Mélodies:

Le Biniou, Scène Bretonne
La Dernière Rose d'Eté, Mélodie Irlandaise
(The Last Rose of the Summer)
La Harpe Eolienne, op.27
Psaume de David
Le Righi, Chant des Montagnes
Venise, Barcarolle

Oeuvres Posthumes:

Harmonies Célestes
Mélodie Arabe
Paradisi-Gloria

La Mélancolie op. 23
from *Trois Etudes caractéristiques*

Nuit Etoilée

Le Songe de Sainte Cécile

Pensées Musicales, Book II
Sancta Madona
Chant Indou (Hindu Song)
Jadis (Long Ago)
Bois Solitaire (Lonely Wood - Waldeinsamkeit)
Les Voix de la Nuit (Voices of the Night), with invisible women's choir *ad libitum* - also available separately
Naples
Le Pardon (Forgiveness)

Morceaux de Genre (character pieces):

Ballade de la Fée, Apparition
Le Revoir, Romance sans paroles
Le Brenner, Chant Tyrolien (Tyrolienne)
Le Rouet de Marguerite
La Mort d'Orphée
Le Sommeil des Dieux
Stella, Romance sans paroles
Le Coucou
Chant d'Armide
Sérénade Aragonaise
Mélodie Russe
La Berceuse, Morceau de Concert

Souvenir Castillan, Rondeau Brillant

Fantaisie sur Les rives de la Plata,
Romance de Théodore Labarre, Varié

Souvenirs de Freischütz, op. 186

More Godefroid works in the Romantic Renaissance series:

2 Mosaïques sur les principaux motifs de *Norma de Bellini*, #1 and #2
Les Adieux, Romance sans paroles, op.41
La Fidanzata del marinajo, scène pour harpe, op.192
Marche triomphale du roi David, op.194

Jules Godefroid (1811-1840)
Bolero Brillant
Grande Fantaisie Originale (for two harps)

Editions *Harpiana* Publications
Tel: (925) 455-5333 – Fax (925) 455-5255
5662 Carnegie Way, Livermore CA 94550 -- P.O. Box 11345, Pleasanton, CA 94588
dominiquepiana@comcast.net - www.harpiana.com

BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY
3 1197 23556 3829